

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
Institute for Transportation

Performance Measures in Action: Lessons from Nationwide MPO Practice Review

Project ICT R27-284

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Agenda

- ❖ Project Overview
- ❖ Practice Review Approach
- ❖ Practice Review Findings
- ❖ Performance Measures Identification
- ❖ Target-Setting
- ❖ Performance-Based Programming
- ❖ Performance Monitoring
- ❖ Conclusion



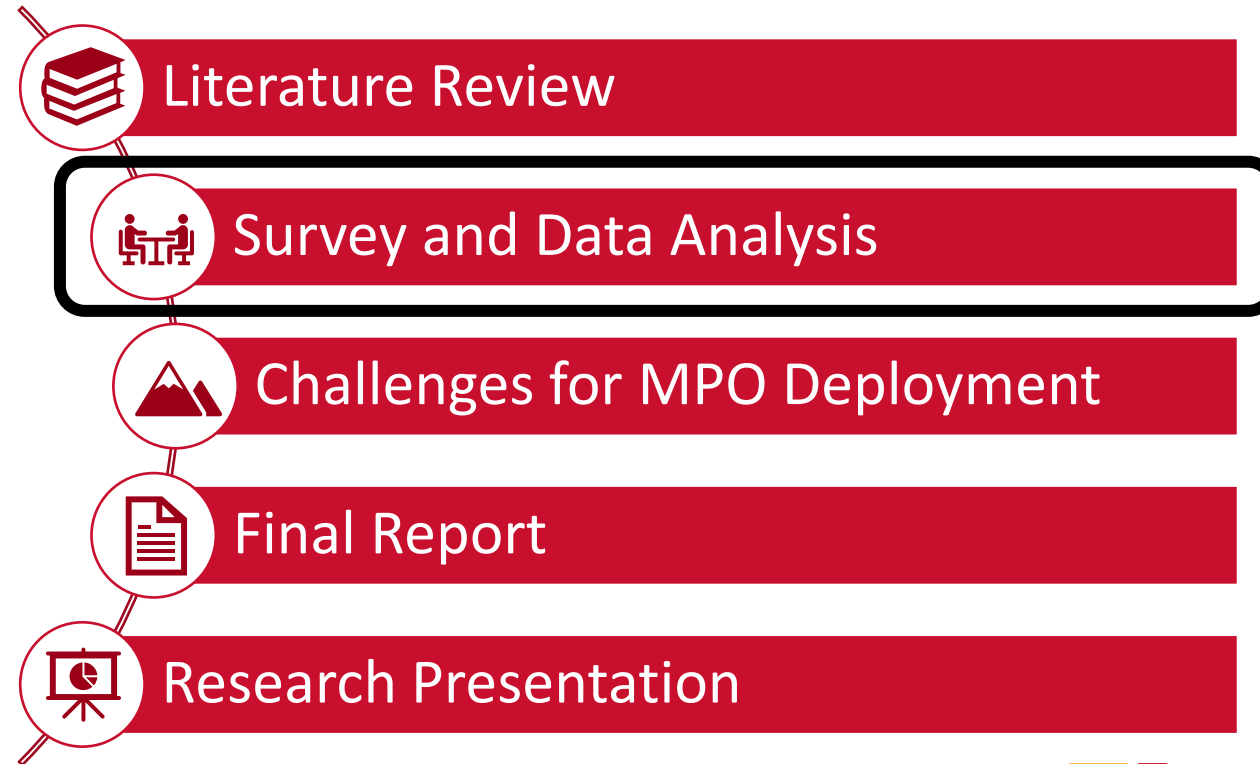
ICT R27-284 Project Overview

Objective and Approach

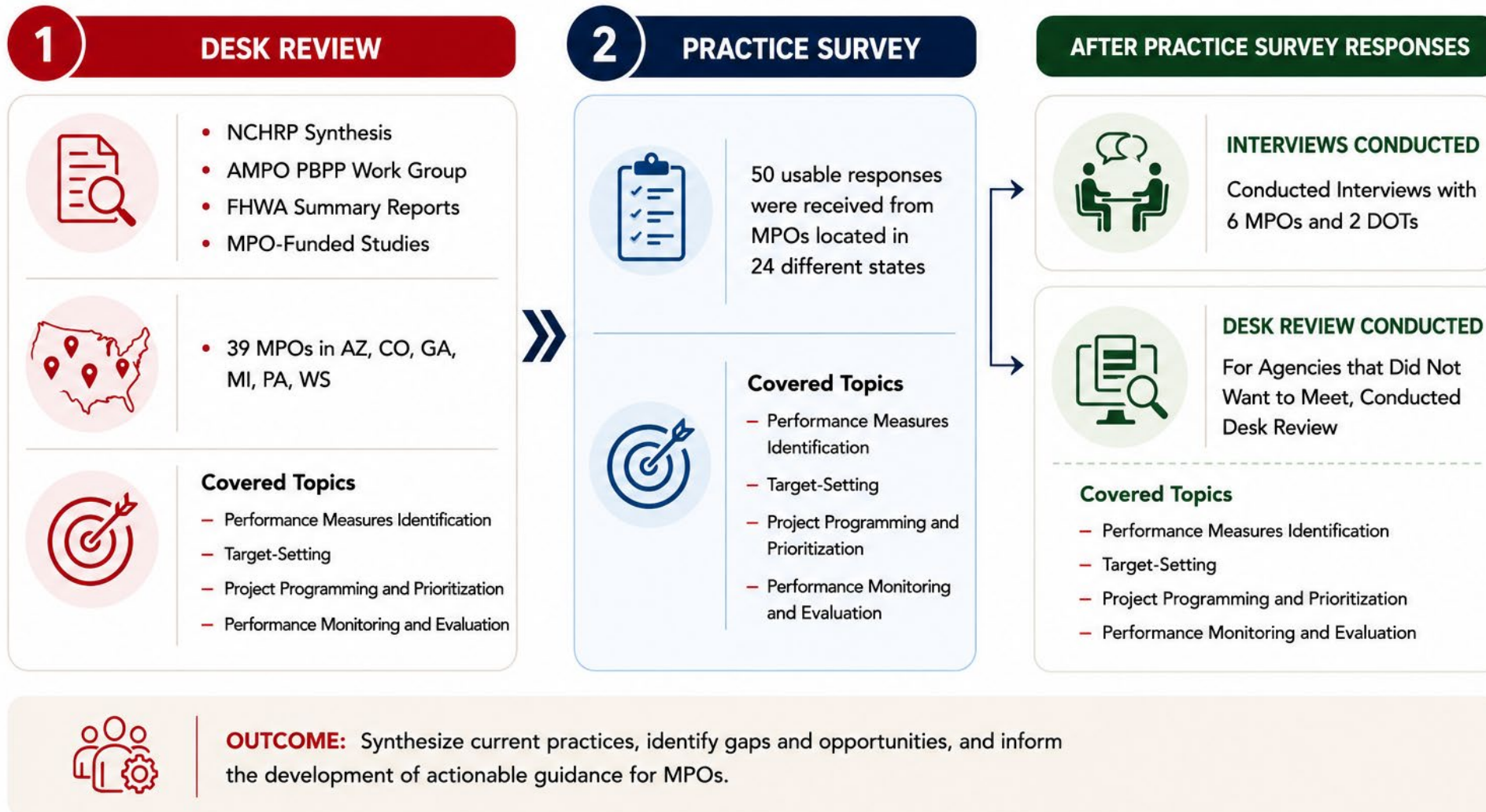
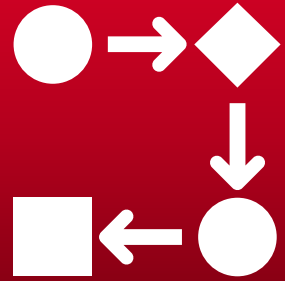
ICT R27-284 Project Goal and Approach



- Develop a guide that will help Illinois MPOs implement performance measures more effectively
- The guide will enable:
 - Defining meaningful performance measures,
 - Defining SMART targets,
 - Establishing investment strategies and program projects aligned with these targets,
 - Monitor performance



Practice Review Approach



Survey Response Coverage





Performance Measures Identification

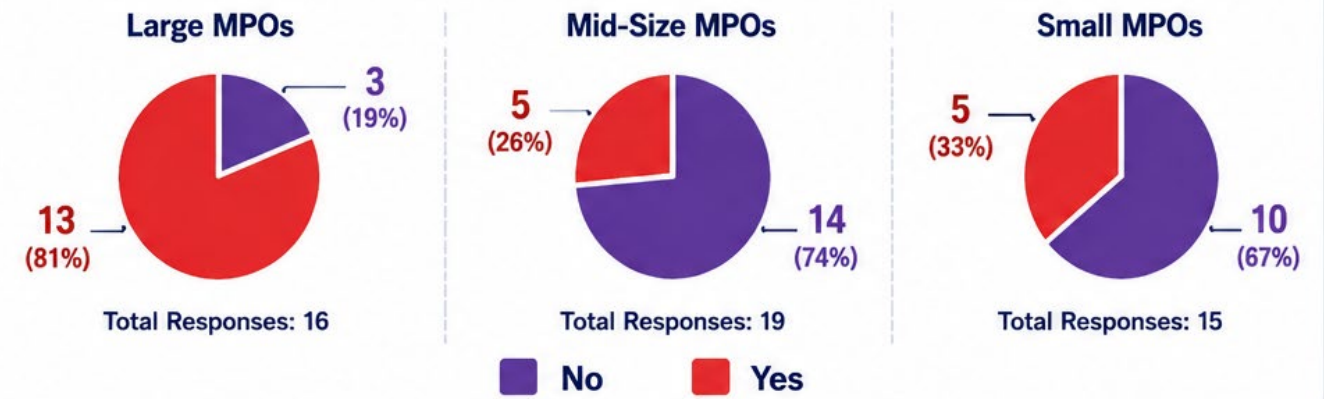
Practice Review Findings

Non-Federal Performance Measures Usage

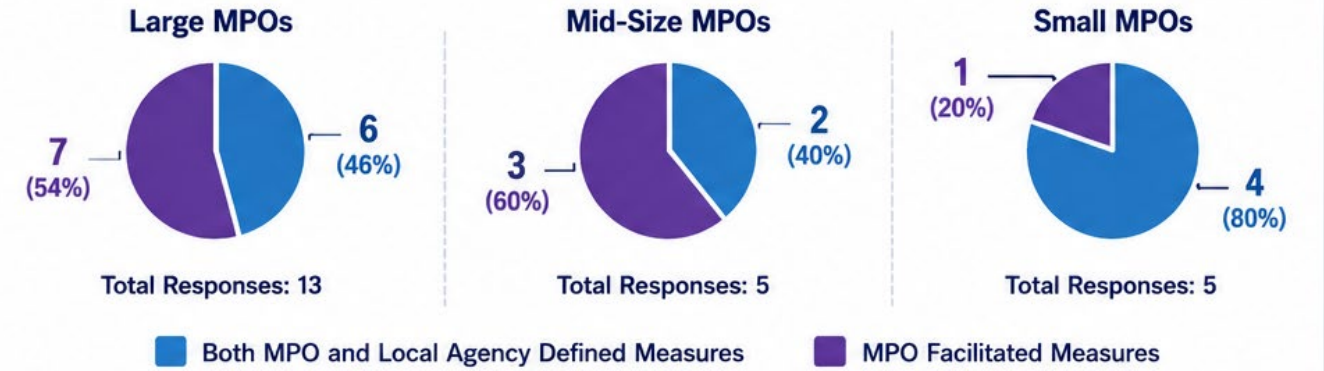
Outreach – Survey Results



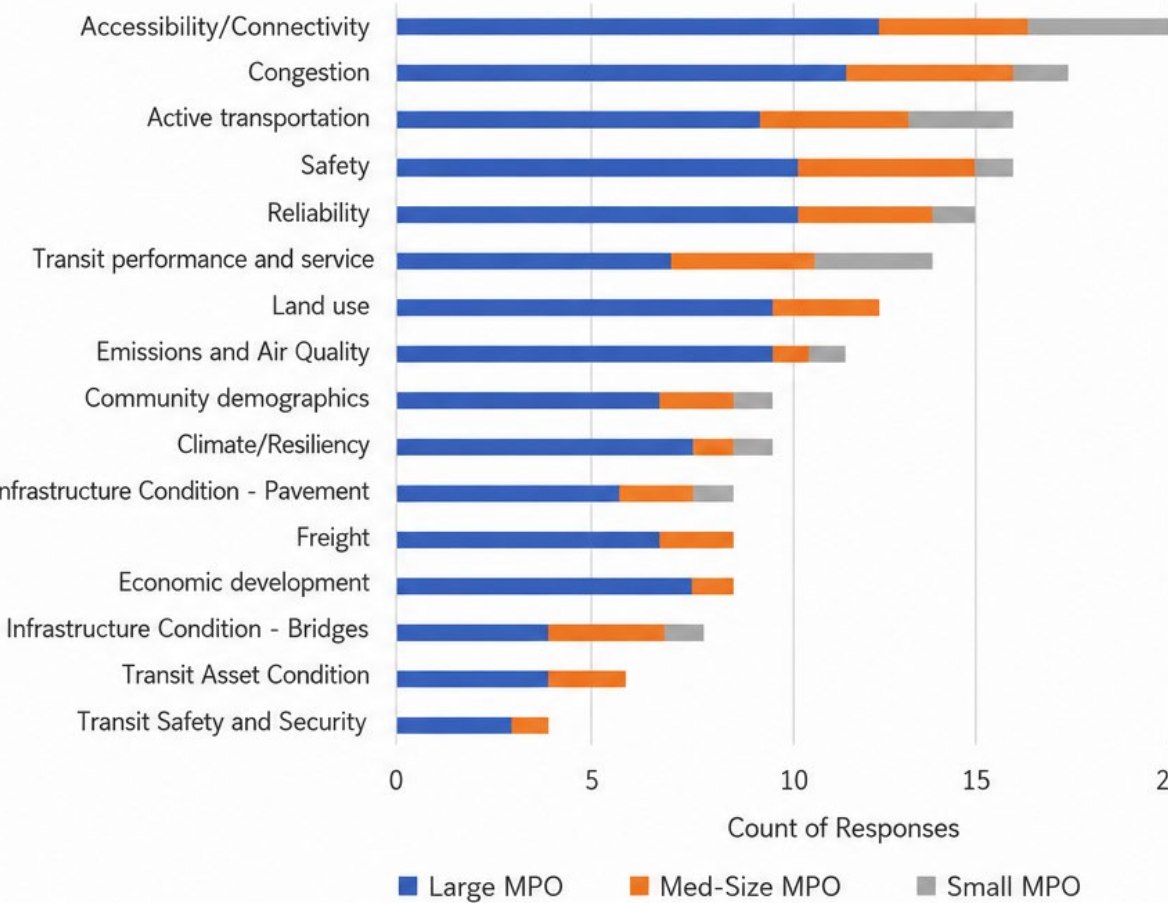
Do Your MPOs Identify Non-Federal Performance Measures?



How Are Non-Federal Performance Measures Developed?



Performance Areas of the Non-Federal Measures



Performance Measures Identification Best Practices

Outreach – Follow-up Interviews



- | | | |
|----------------------------------|--|---|
| BEST PRACTICE
1 | | Start with Regional Goals, Not Measures |
| BEST PRACTICE
2 | | Create a Dedicated Performance Technical Advisory Committee |
| BEST PRACTICE
3 | | Use a Collaborative Development Process |
| BEST PRACTICE
4 | | Keep Measures Manageable and High-Level |
| BEST PRACTICE
5 | | Align Federal and Local Performance Frameworks |
| BEST PRACTICE
6 | | Develop a Limited Set of Locally Meaningful Measures that Drive Decisions and That are Tied to Regional Goals, Not Solely Based on Data Availability |



Target-Setting

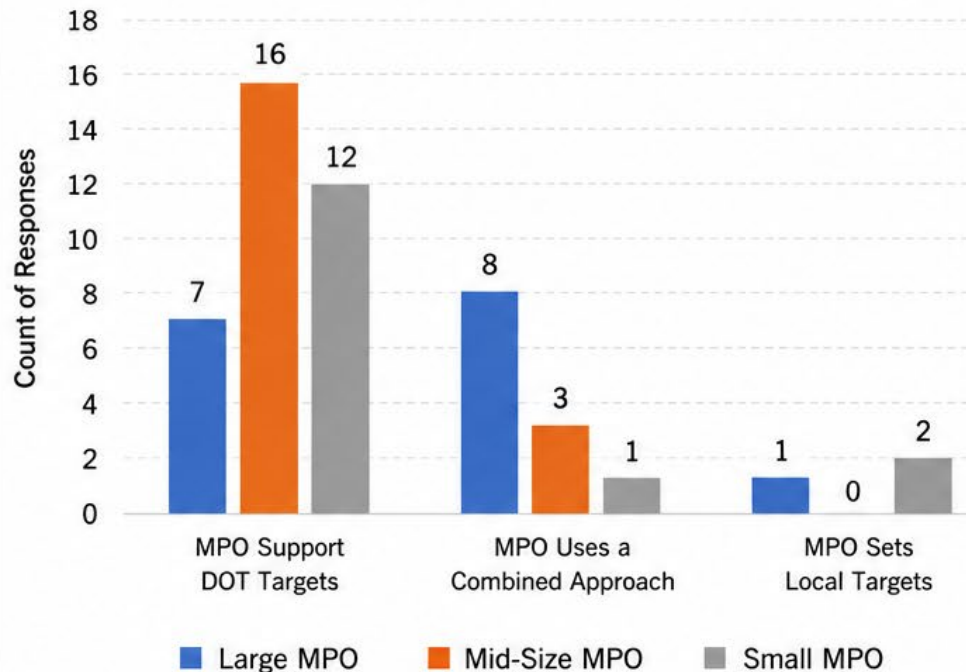
Practice Review Findings

Federal Target-Setting Decision

Outreach – Survey Results

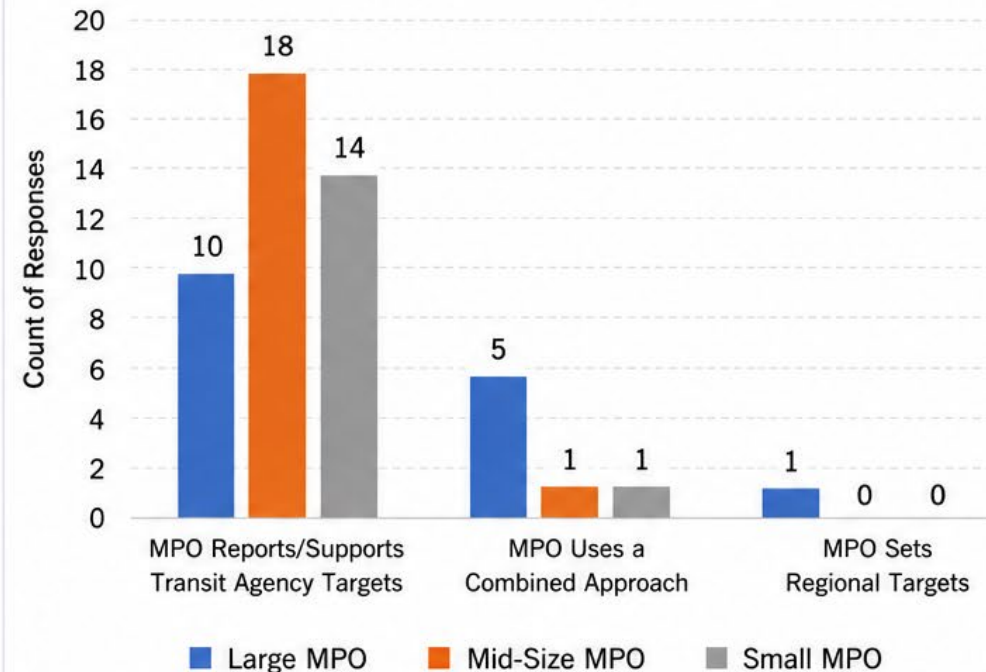


Non-Transit Target-Setting



Most **mid-size (16)** and small (12) MPOs support DOT targets.

Transit Target-Setting



A majority of **mid-size (18)** and small (14) MPOs support or support transit agency targets.

Target Setting Methods

Outreach – Survey Results



Performance Area	Policy-Based 	Historical Trend Analysis 	Project Impact-Based 	Probabilistic / Risk Analysis 	Total
 Congestion	3	10	2	2	17
 Safety	9	6	1	0	16
 Infrastructure Condition (Bridge)	2	8	3	1	14
 Transit Asset Management	2	9	2	1	14
 Infrastructure Condition (Pavement)	2	7	3	1	13
 Transit Safety	1	9	2	1	13
 Reliability	2	8	0	2	12
 Freight	1	8	1	1	11
 Emissions	2	3	3	2	10
Total	24	68	17	11	

When to Set MPO-Specific Targets?

Outreach – Follow-up Interviews



Before creating MPO-specific targets, ask the following questions:

-  Does the MPO have a different policy objective than the state?
-  Will MPO-specific targets influence funding decisions?
-  Can MPO actions reasonably affect the outcome?
-  Does the MPO represent the majority of the State's population?
-  Are performance trends in the MPO different from those in the State?



MPOs might consider **MPO-SPECIFIC TARGETS** when:



The MPO has a **different policy objective** than the state.



MPO-specific targets will **influence funding decisions**.



MPO actions can **reasonably affect the outcome**.



The MPO represents the **majority of the State's population**.



Performance trends in the MPO are **different** from those in the State.



When most or all of these factors apply, MPO-specific targets are more likely to be meaningful and effective.



MPOs might consider **SUPPORTING DOT TARGETS** when:



The MPO **does not have a different policy objective** than the state.



MPO-specific targets are **unlikely to influence funding decisions**.



MPO actions are **unlikely to reasonably affect** the outcome.



The MPO **does not represent the majority** of the **State's population**.



Performance trends in the MPO are **similar to those in the State**.



When most or all of these factors apply, supporting state targets is more appropriate and effective.

Target Setting Best Practices

Desk Review



1



Create a target-setting committee (or an interest group)

to advise on target-setting and stakeholder communication



Include diverse representation from key partners and subject-matter experts.



Establish clear roles, responsibilities, and communication protocols.



Meet regularly to review progress and update targets as needed.

2



Use Esri's Story Maps

to communicate targets and performance



Use interactive maps and visuals to make data easier to understand.



Share stories that connect performance to real places and real people.



Increase transparency and build public trust through accessible information.

3



Integrate targets in various planning efforts (ex: model plans)



Embed targets in plans, programs, and corridor studies.



Ensure consistency across planning efforts and decision-making.



Use targets to guide investment priorities and evaluate trade-offs.

Key Takeaway



Engage the Right Partners



Communicate clearly



Set Meaningful Target



Integrate into Planning



Achieve Better Outcomes



Performance-Based Programming

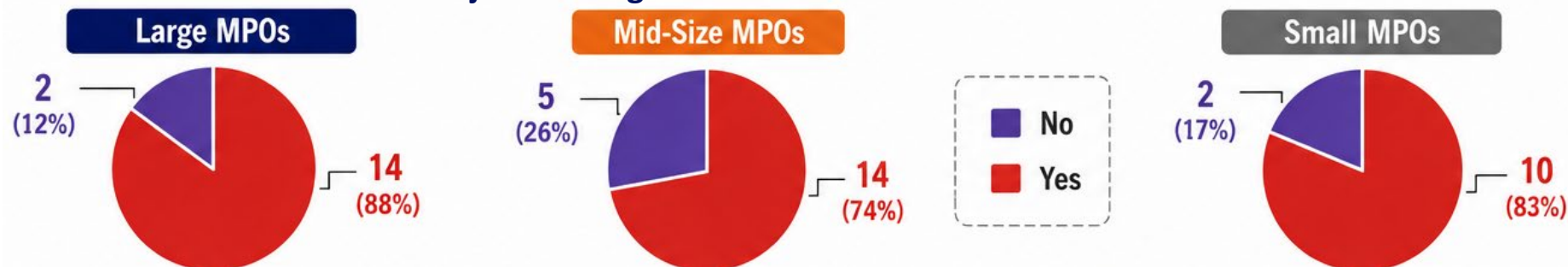
Practice Review Findings

Project Scoring Documentation / Local Agencies' Role

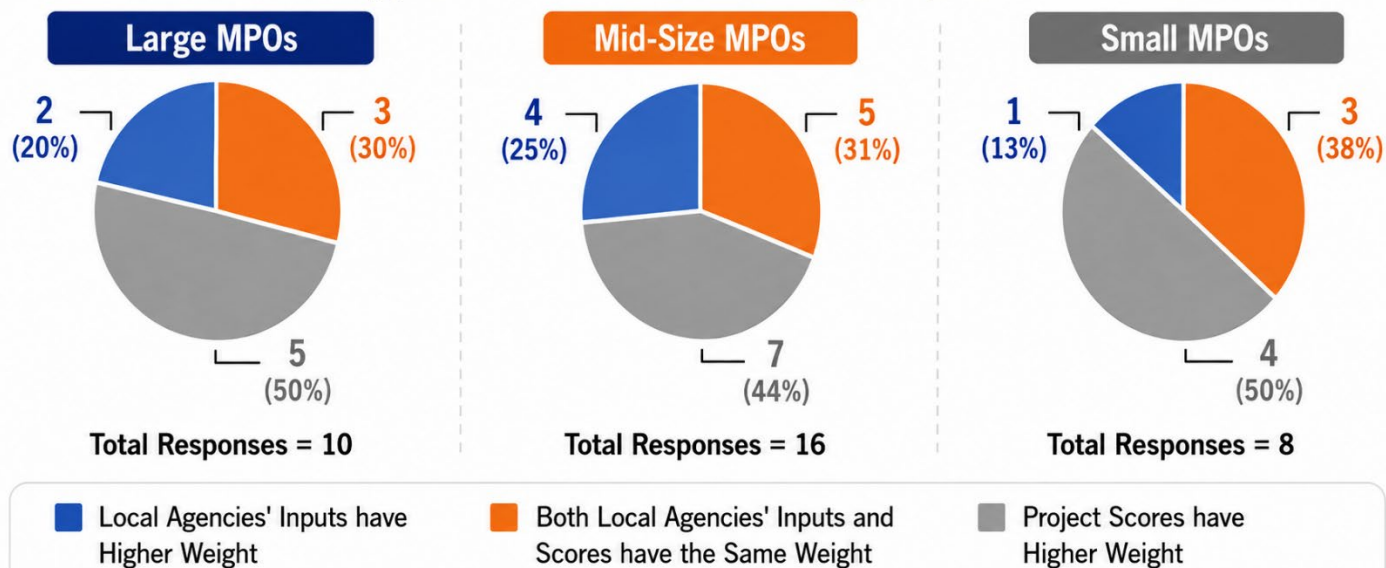
Outreach – Survey Results



Project Scoring Methods Documentation

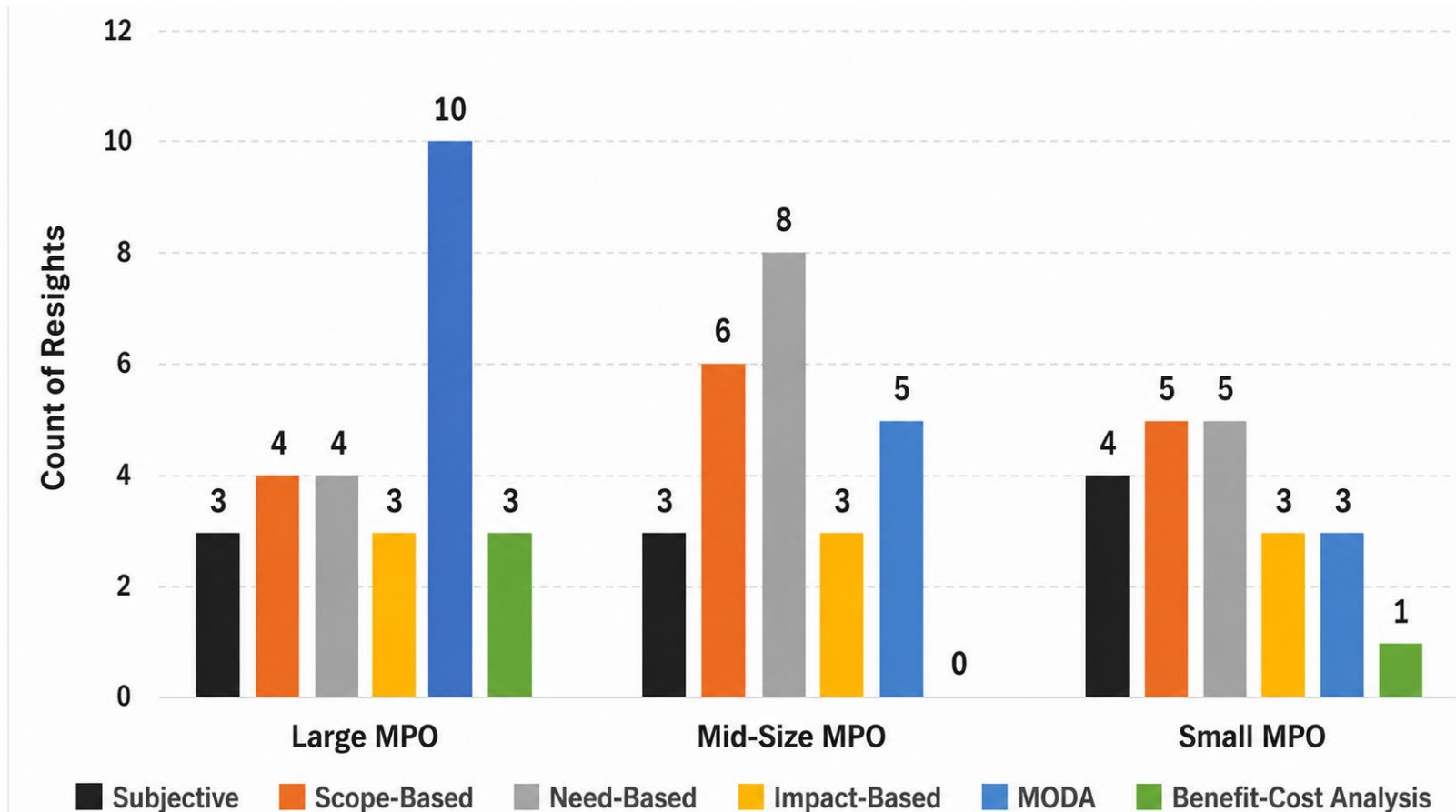


Which approach do MPOs use to weigh inputs and scores?



Project Scoring Methods

Outreach – Survey Results



Key Takeaway: Large MPOs most often use **MODA** for project prioritization, while mid-size and small MPOs rely more on **scope-based** and **need-based** methods. **Impact-based** and **benefit-cost analysis** methods are used by some MPOs across all sizes, but less frequently.

Performance-Based Project Evaluation Best Practices

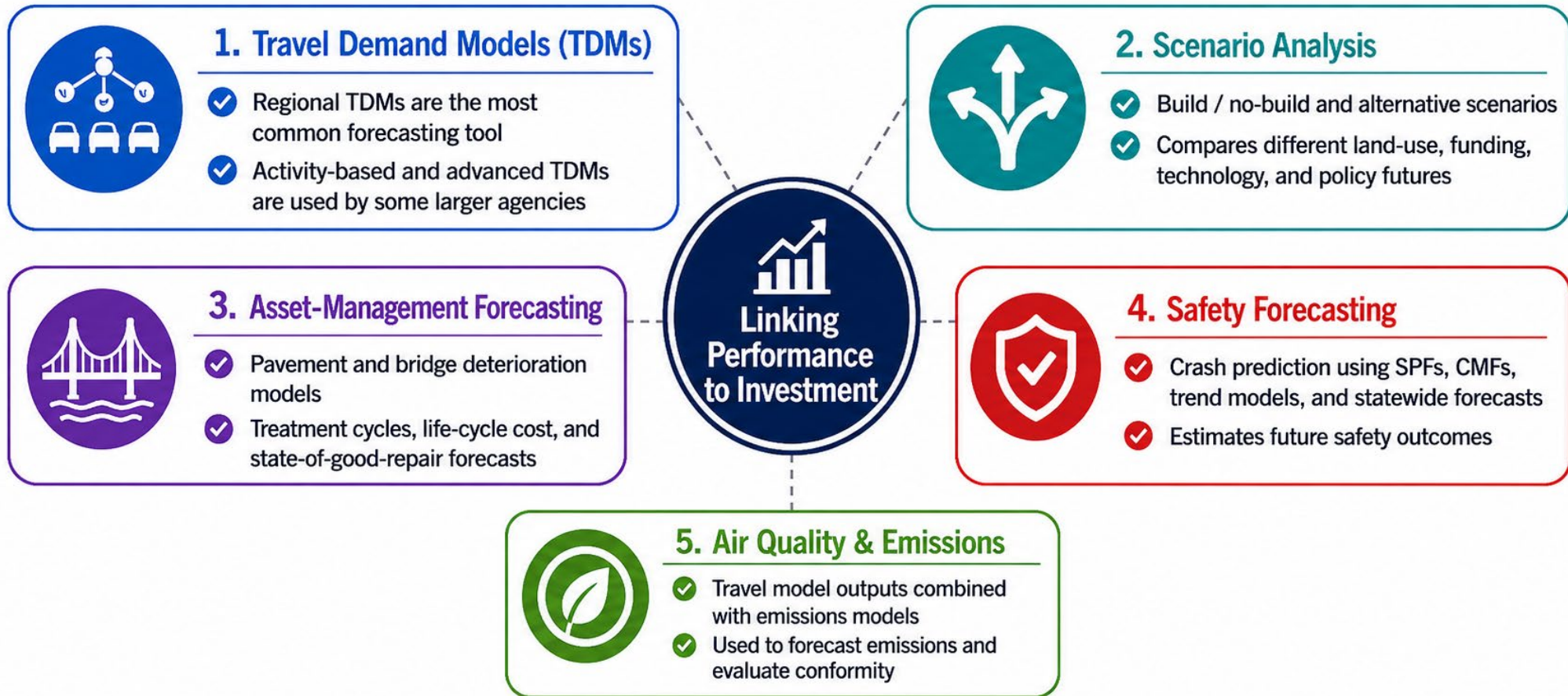
Outreach – Follow-up Interviews



BEST PRACTICE 1		Apply Adaptive Scoring
BEST PRACTICE 2		Make Priorities Explicit Before the Call for Projects
BEST PRACTICE 3		Apply Multi-layer Screening to Ensure Relevant Eligible Projects Move Through the Process
BEST PRACTICE 4		Use a Structured Performance-Based Application and Scoring Tools Linked Directly to RTP/MTP Goals
BEST PRACTICE 5		Recognize Limitations of Quantitative Models
BEST PRACTICE 6		Use Multi-Objective Decision-Analysis to Capture Both Qualitative and Quantitative Prioritization Criteria
BEST PRACTICE 7		Provide Data and Technical Assistance Equitably
BEST PRACTICE 8		Support Local Agencies through Matching Projects to Funding Sources

Investment-Performance Measures Connection

Helpful Tools and Methods



Together, these tools help agencies estimate future conditions, compare alternatives, and connect investments to expected outcomes.

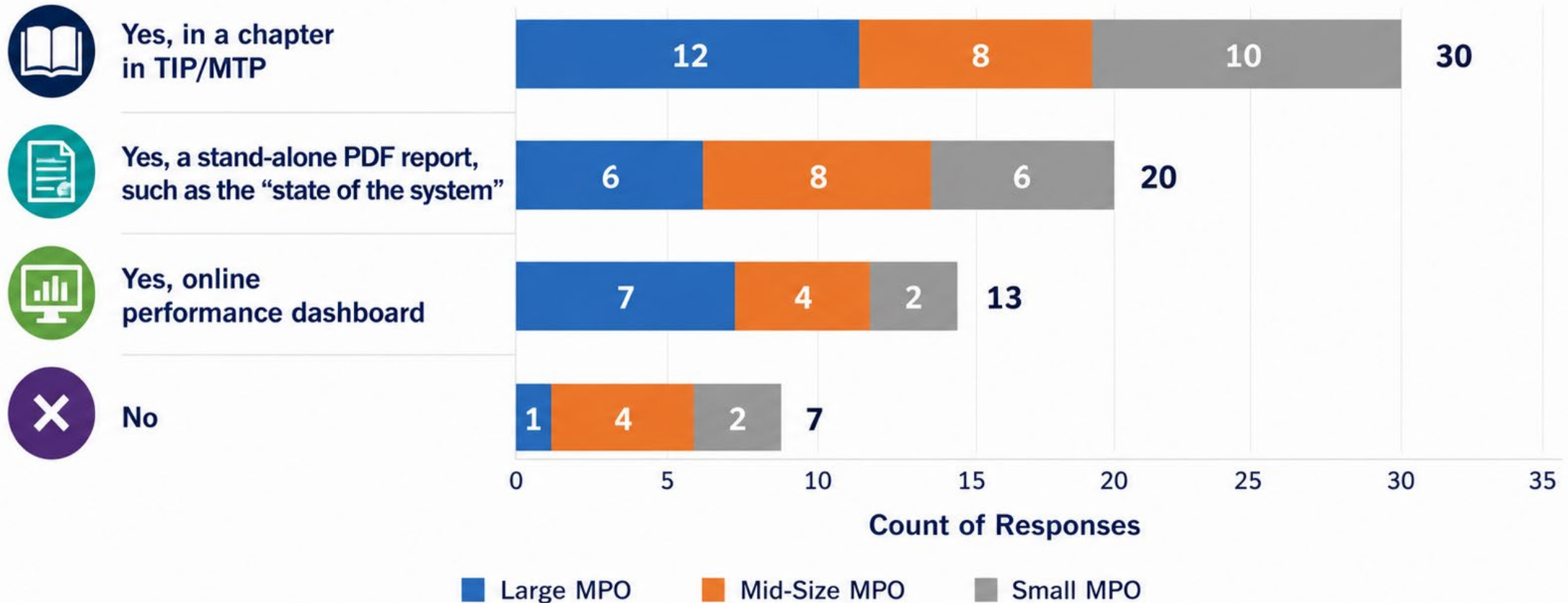


Performance Monitoring

Practice Review Findings

Performance Monitoring Methods

Outreach – Survey Results



Performance Monitoring Best Practices

Outreach – Follow-up Interviews



BEST PRACTICES



Best Practice 1:
Transition from
Reporting to
Continuous Performance
Monitoring



Best Practice 2:
Use Dashboards for
Transparency



Best Practice 3:
Build Performance
Dashboards Before
Pursuing Full
Automation

TYPICAL PROGRESSION

1



Spreadsheet-Based
Performance Tracking.



2



Centralized Database
Management.



3



Dashboard
Development.

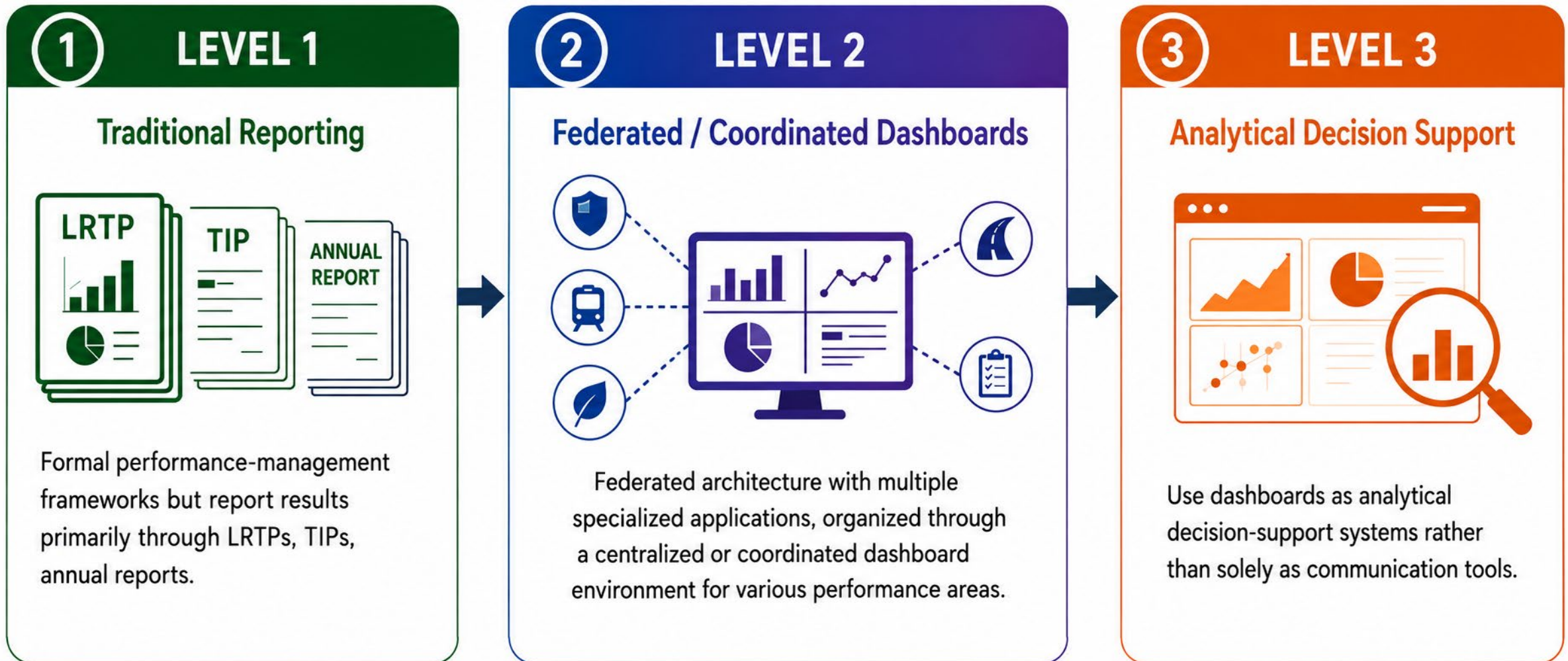


4



Automated Data Feeds
Where Feasible.

Performance Monitoring Best Practices Maturity Levels



Conclusion

Key Conclusions

Lessons from Nationwide MPO Practice

1



Start with Regional Goals

Begin with regional goals and objectives—not the measures and not the data.

2



Keep Measures Manageable

Keep the number of performance measures manageable.

3



Set MPO-Specific Targets Selectively

Set MPO-specific targets only when the MPO can meaningfully influence outcomes.

4



Use Measures for Decisions

Make performance measures part of decision-making—not just reporting—by leveraging existing tools and data.

5



Collaboration Matters

Engage local agencies and partners early, and clearly communicate priorities and expectations.

6



Monitor Continuously When Possible

Move from periodic reporting toward continuous performance monitoring, when possible.

7



No One-Size-Fits-All Approach

Practices should reflect each MPO's context, capacity, and influence.



Overall takeaway: Effective performance management is goal-driven, practical, collaborative, and tailored to each MPO.

Thank You

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